

# Healthy Youth Coalition

## **An Act Relative to Healthy Youth**

**S. 234, H. 2053**

Sponsored by Representatives Jim O'Day and Paul Brodeur and Senator Sal DiDomenico

### **When Schools Offer Sexuality Education, Let's Get It Right**

Giving Young People the Facts They Need to Make Healthy,  
Responsible Decisions about Sexual Activity and Relationships

Many Massachusetts public schools provide their students with excellent health education that covers sexual activity and healthy relationships, but others offer little to no information on these subjects. These are local decisions based on local resources and priorities. When public schools do provide sexuality education, however, it should be done responsibly: it should be comprehensive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate. This bill ensures students who need it most will receive this kind of quality, comprehensive education.

#### **“An Act Relative to Healthy Youth” will:**

- Ensure that school districts that choose to offer sexuality education provide young people age-appropriate, medically accurate information.
- Ensure that school districts that choose to provide sexuality education include information about both abstinence and contraception.
- Leave to parents the choice about whether their children participate in school-based sexuality education.
- Hold communities accountable by ensuring comprehensive sex education is offered in schools in cities or towns where the STI rates for adolescents exceed the state average.

#### **“An Act Relative to Healthy Youth” will NOT:**

- It will NOT remove the benefits of abstinence from sexuality education.
- It will NOT dictate the age or grade level when sexuality education should begin.
- It will NOT interfere with parents' right to remove their children from participating in sexuality education programs.
- It will NOT cost the Commonwealth any money.

**If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact our Public Affairs Director, Michael Falcone at 617-629-8613 or [mfalcone@pplm.org](mailto:mfalcone@pplm.org).**